

FURNISHING THE HOUSE

COMMITTEE TO MEET HERE ON THE 25TH INSTANT.

Style of Desks to Be Then Determined

A New System of Ventilation.

On the 25th instant a committee of the

House of Representatives will meet to de-

termine the style of desks to be furnished

to the House, the lobby and the fourteen

committee rooms which have been secured

by a reconstruction of the old Congressional

Library portion of the Capitol. The

committee consists of Representatives Cam-

mion, Dillz and Richardson, and the archi-

tect of the Capitol will have before them

general projects for their approval.

There are two plans for desks for the

hall of the House of Representatives. One

is to have individual desks as in the past

and the other is to have a continuous desk

from aisle to aisle, with an ornamental

metal piece to divide the portions for each

member.

This will give additional writing space

on the tops of the desks, and a very

important comfort to be obtained from it

will be the large open space beneath the

desks. Now the presence of the desks

stands, for each desk gives the members

very little space in which to move.

Whether the continuous or the individual

desk is to be adopted will be for the com-

mittee to decide.

Will Be Solid Mahogany.

Whatever style is adopted, solid mahog-

any furniture will be used both in the hall,

the lobby and the new committee rooms.

The widest competition is to be called in to

secure the most artistic effect in the gen-

eral furnishing to be provided, for which

\$10,000 was appropriated by the last Con-

gress.

At least twenty firms are to submit de-

signs for this furniture, their only restric-

tion being in securing the highest degree of

artistic effect being that the whole must

not cost more than \$10,000, and that their

designs must be simple in effect so that

quiet elegance rather than a gaudy effect

can be secured.

Firms that will compete for this work

are located in all parts of the country, and

it is believed that the best designs will

be secured. The designs will be judged

more than money interest in providing fur-

niture for the Capitol building, the fact of

the approval of their plans naturally being

an important advertisement for the suc-

cessful firm.

New System of Ventilation.

When the hall of the House of Represen-

tatives has been renovated and provided

with a new system of ventilation and new

furniture it is believed it will be a model

legislative chamber.

In the past it has been known for its

defective system of ventilation which has

been improved from time to time, but

which has been distinctly unsatisfactory

when the galleries have been crowded for

any considerable time.

The system of ventilation to be provided

will permit warm air to be brought in

through perforated chairs at desk stands

and passed out through the roof.

The warm air will be forced into the

chamber and electric fans operating in a

cupola on the roof will keep a steady cur-

rent of air going out of the hall. But this

ventilating system has been so arranged

that this may be reversed and the air can

be forced in from above and withdrawn

through the ducts at the floor.

This system will permit the rapid cooling

of the chamber at any time it is desir-

able. A volume of cool air from the roof

can be forced down at any time, and the

application of this plan after long night

sessions in the heated period of the year

when Congress has been detained into June

and July, it is believed, will add to the

comfort of the hall.

WATER MAIN ASSESSMENTS.

Attorney Duval's Report on Request

for Cancellation.

The attorney for the District, Mr. A. B.

Duval, today rendered an opinion in the

case of the water main assessments levied

August 10, 1895, against the property

owned by Harry J. Daley, viz: A tract of

1.16 acres, plat 12, Brightwood

avenue, and a tract of fifteen acres, plat

13, Brightwood avenue.

As to the first named 1.16-acre tract, the

assessment against this tract was can-

celled, he finds, under authority of the act

of Congress approved June 2, 1900, hereinafter

referred to as the act of June 2, 1900, in

this case. It appears to him that this

property was assessed in 1895, by the

District, under authority of the act of

Congress approved June 2, 1900, and that

the assessment of the water main taxes

directed by said act of Congress has been

cancelled, and that the assessment of the

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